Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. River conservation activities such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal are also being implemented under other Central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under State schemes.

Danger to existence of Lakshadweep islands

1075. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coral of Lakshadweep islands are dying causing danger to the existence of the islands as reported under a study; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the efforts made to arrest the problem to ensure sustainability of the islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) According to a modeling study by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi; the reef building corals may not be dominant in Lakshadweep Seas after 2030-2040. The study has indicated that there is no evidence to state that the corals will totally die off and there is also no evidence that there is any danger to the existence of the islands. The study analysis was not based on field observations but on model and projection only.

The Ministry has identified four National Coral Reef Areas *viz*: (i) Gulf of Mannar, (ii) Gulf of Kutch, (iii) Lakshadweep and (iv) Andman and Nicobar Islands for their conservation and management. It provides financial assistance to the State/UT Forest Departments of all the four identified Coral Reef areas for implementation of approved Management Action Plans for conservation and management of corals and coral reefs. The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (1991), as amended subsequently, recognizes the Corals and Coral Reef areas as ecologically sensitive and categorizes them as CRZ-I (i) and some species of corals are also included in the Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them high degree of protection.

Upgrading of Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh

†1076. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh is going to be upgraded to international standards;

(b) if so, whether several new animals would be brought in this park under this project;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.